

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

A2 In claim 1, at line 5 of claim 1, after the term "conduit" please insert ~~is~~ coupled to the first and second conduits and--.

In claim 1, at lines 9-10 of claim 1, please delete the term [substantially all the water in] and please insert ~~is~~ --water from--.

A3 In claim 1, at line 21 of claim 1, after the term "gas" please insert ~~is~~ the discharge means in communication with ambient pressure--.

In claim 1, at line 24 of claim 1, after the term "conduits" please delete the term [defining an open system] and please insert ~~is~~ defining as apparatus open to ambient pressure--.

A4 In claim 2, at line 10 of claim 2, after the term "outlet" please insert ~~is~~ --subject to ambient pressure--.

A5 In claim 3, at line 2 of claim 3, after the term "tower" please insert ~~is~~ in communication with the mixing tank--.

In claim 4, at lines 10-11 of claim 4, please delete the term [substantially all the water in] and please insert ~~is~~ --water from--.

A4 In claim 4, at line 24 of claim 4, please add the following terms ~~is~~ means for discharging the sulphurous acid and any unreacted sulphur dioxide gas. [These words were inadvertently left off.

Remarks

Section 112 Issues

As to claim 1, the structural relationship between first and third conduits is clarified. Throughout the specification, the conduits are described and shown as open to ambient pressure, not contained under pressure. The system is not open between the first and third conduits, but the first conduit and the third conduits operate under ambient conditions to which the apparatus is open at the burn chamber end (air inlet 56) and at the discharge end (discharge 80). See Figs. 1 and 2, Spec.,